



## Candidates Early Childhood Education Survey Results

The Children Matter Action Fund is surveying all candidates for Pennsylvania House and Senate seats to learn more about their views on childcare and early childhood education. We invite you to learn more by reviewing their responses below; by contacting their campaigns; and by following them on social media. Let them know your views on the importance of ensuring young children in Pennsylvania get the early education supports they need and deserve.

Name: **Rich Sterner**

Current Job: **Retired School Administration**

Website: <http://www.sternerforpa.com>

Social Media: **@sterner2020**

Campaign Contact Person: **Donna Maguire**

Campaign Contact Cell Phone: **(631) 255-0029**

Campaign Contact Email Address: **sternerforpa@gmail.com**

You are running for election in which

House or Senate District?: **Senate District 33**

**Q: What are your views on the benefits, or drawbacks, of allocating additional state funds for high-quality early learning education?**

**A:** Public Education is the silver bullet that can move our society forward. We need to recognize that and make a commitment to funding education like the priority that it is. Early childhood education can be exactly the key to turn to get our children headed in the right direction.

**Q: Will you support increasing annual investments in the Pre-K Counts and Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program line items?**

**A:** Absolutely. I am a believer in this critical beginning of a child's learning experience.

**Q: How important, or unimportant, is expanding access to high-quality child care to working families in your district?**

**A:** This day in age a two parent working family is the norm not the exception. No child should be short changed of proper care and increased learning and socialization opportunities. But these opportunities needed to be of the best quality.

**Q: If you support increased state investment in subsidized child care for infants and toddlers at the campaign's recommended levels, how will you help the campaign expand child care for working families? OR If you do not support the proposed increases in access to child care, please explain why.**

**A:** Just like we need to commit financially to student success K - 12, we need to equally commit to our youngest children as well.

Q: Improved parenting skills, increased family economic self-sufficiency, improved maternal and child health and reducing abuse and neglect are just a few of the key benefits realized through evidence-based home visiting services. How do you view the needs and benefits of home visiting to families?

A: As a school administrator I recognize that many children across the state live in homes where encouragement is not found, where diet - for various reasons - is limited, and where abuse is only right around the corner. Anything that we can do to help families rise up and then in turn give our kids a better life is as good as magic.

Q: How will you support the expansion of state investment dollars to serve those in your district who can benefit from home visiting?

A: Legislation that comes across my desk supporting this, I would obviously vote YES to. But I would also sponsor and co-sponsor legislation to make this happen.

Q: What would you do to increase payments to high-quality providers to improve their ability to retain qualified professionals?

A: Certified early learning programs, teachers, and care givers should be given income considerations that reflect and are commensurate with their training and experience.

Q: How will you champion early care and early childhood education?

A: I am and always will be an educator first. There is nothing we do that is more important than this.